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REMARKS


In response to the Office Action mailed June 3, 2003, Applicants elect with traverse to prosecute the claims of Group I directed to a method of virus or viral antigen. Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows. Cancel claims 22-23. No new matter is added by this amendment.

According to the MPEP, where claims can be examined together without undue burden, the Examiner must examine the claims on the merits even though they are directed to independent and distinct inventions. See, the MPEP at 803.01. In establishing that an "undue burden" would exist for co-examination of claims, the Examiner must show that examination of the claims would involve substantially different prior art searches, making the co-examination burdensome. To show undue burden resulting from searching difficulties, the Examiner must show that the restricted groups have a separate classification, acquired a separate status in the art, or that searching would require different fields of search (MPEP at § 808.02). Applicants respectfully submit that all inventions in the present application can readily be searched without undue burden.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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